December 14, 2018

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 United States Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Pelosi:

As we prepare for the 116th Congress, we urge you to bring legislation that would put Dreamers and individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforcement Departure (DED) on a pathway to citizenship to the House Floor within the first hundred days. Bringing such legislation to a vote would end the uncertainty that is currently plaguing more than 3.5 million people by one count – not to mention their families and communities – with these temporary and tenuous statuses.

Currently, there are nearly 3.2 million Dreamers in the United States. Though the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has provided approximately 800,000 Dreamers with temporary protection since its inception in 2012, it is by no means a permanent solution and has been continuously challenged in the courts by the current Administration. Our Dreamers deserve the certainty to plan out their lives, so that they can stop living in fear and continue contributing to our nation.

In addition, there are over 300,000 individuals under TPS and an additional 5,000 individuals under DED, many of whom are from countries in Asia and Africa. Many of these individuals have lived – lawfully – in the U.S. for nearly two decades, and together they have nearly 275,000 U.S. born citizen children. They have mortgages, pay taxes, and support their local communities, states, and the nation as a whole. However, these individuals are currently in limbo as the Trump Administration has triggered an end to TPS for all but a small fraction of TPS holders and is working to remove these long-term residents. While a significant number of TPS recipients have been given temporary legal reprieve by the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, the Administration has moved to appeal the district court's ruling. Given these realities, we note that the short-term future of all immigrants with TPS is in jeopardy—and it is abundantly clear that the Administration will continue to proactively seek their removal from

the United States regardless of their long-term residency in the United States.

Passing legislation as soon as possible in the new Congress that protects Dreamers, TPS, and DED holders is critical. Beyond these pressing issues, our entire immigration system remains desperately in need of an overhaul. In addition to Dreamer, TPS, and DED legislation in the first hundred days, it is imperative that this body work on a comprehensive immigration reform package in the 116th Congress.

It is estimated that there are 11 million undocumented immigrants in our nation. They work in every sector of our economy. These undocumented immigrants and their families have enriched our country, while contributing their knowledge, traditions, and intellect to the fabric of our culture. They are to be credited for driving America's economic engine, often experiencing few of the gains and benefits from doing so.

Comprehensive immigration reform legislation should include:

a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants;
eligibility for deported veterans to return to the United States;
the reunification of separated families;
an end to immigration laws that tear families apart;
end the militarization of our borderlands
and a recommitment to our nation’s founding ideals as a place of refuge for those seeking protection at our borders.

Undocumented immigrants are our friends and neighbors. They are part of the American social fabric and deserve a pathway to the American dream.